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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES IN MID-SEPTEMBER, 1989

In this, the fourth report of 1989, forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes in mid-September 1989 are briefly discussed.

LACK OF RAIN in most areas of the Region in much of the first half of September has added to the already droughty conditions. All reporting weather stations in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island registered less than average precipitation for the July 15-September 7 period. As much as 124 mm less than the 30-year average was reported at Middle Musquodoboit, N.S. Trees, especially along roadsides and in urban situations, are reacting to this added stress: discoloration and leaf drop are occurring earlier than is normal in many areas.

GYPSY MOTH - Collection of the approximately 8000 pheromone traps is nearing completion. Early returns indicate that catches will be higher than last year in many areas, however, blow-in of moths from increased populations in the United States rather than increase in local populations may be the reason for this. Egg mass surveys will be conducted by the various cooperating agencies throughout the fall. Several egg masses have already been found in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. (This is the final request for immediate submission of gypsy moth traps - or information on results - to FIDS in Fredericton).

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EARLY BROWNING OF WHITE BIRCH occurred along the Bay of Fundy shore in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Browning was present but generally only at trace to light intensity in late August. Discoloration intensified quickly in early September, resulting in considerable browning which was distinguishable from autumn leaf coloration.

Similar symptoms were also observed in other parts of both provinces in groups of trees, while white birch trees in other areas were still green. Specific areas noted were in York and Victoria counties in New Brunswick, Halifax and Cumberland counties in Nova Scotia.

HEMLOCK LOOPER - The area affected by defoliation in the Christmas Mountain area of Northumberland County, New Brunswick, has been determined as approximately 3 800 ha, of which about 2 300 ha were in the severe and moderate defoliation categories. The insect populations survived well in this area, as indicated by the large numbers of moths flying in the early fall. Populations may also be on the increase elsewhere in the Region, judging from the higher than usual moth activity. Preparatory to possible control action, field surveys in the outbreak area are being conducted by the Department of Natural Resources & Energy.

FALL WEBWORM nests were obvious, common, and in some areas, numerous on hardwoods throughout Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and southern New Brunswick. They were present but less common in the rest of the province.

ALDER FLEA WEEVIL and **WILLOW FLEA WEEVIL** caused severe browning on their respective hosts throughout most of the Maritimes. The browning was very obvious, especially on alder, along long stretches of highways.

OTHER FOREST PESTS OF NOTE include: **birch skeletonizer**, in Nova Scotia, **spruce bark beetle**, **Armillaria root rot** in plantations, **eastern dwarf mistletoe**, **leaf blotch of horse chestnut**, **ash rust**, **pine leaf adelgid** on white pine, **balsam woolly adelgid**, **Dutch elm disease**, **balsam gall midge**, etc.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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